

DIRTY STREETS AND SEWERS DANGEROUS.

Commissioner Varrelmann Declares That Dire Results May Follow Continued Failure to Clean Them—Heavy Rains or Snow to Be Feared.

Charles Varrelmann, Street Commissioner, says that a heavy rain or a fall of two inches of snow on the streets and sewers in their present condition would result in incalculable property damage and danger to life. He says that he would not undertake to estimate the damage which would be done to the streets and alleys and that if he were asked to foot up the amount in tons the sum would be so great as to seem incredible. He says he has not a dollar to spend for street cleaning—not even for emergency work—and will not have unless special provision is made by the Municipal Assembly, before late next spring.

"I do not wish to be classed as an alarmist," said Mr. Varrelmann yesterday, "and I have no desire to find fault with any one. I presume that the reason we have no money to spend for cleaning the streets is that there was none left after other branches of the city's work had been provided for. That is not the question under consideration. Any money that is available for street cleaning will be used for that purpose."

"The startling fact is that such a state of affairs does exist, and that it exists as a public nuisance and a menace to the public health."

"Suppose we should have a rain heavy enough to wash the streets to-morrow. Would the dirt begin to accumulate the next day? No. It would be washed away. The streets would be further choked, and so it would go, from bad to worse, until some day it would wake up to the fact that the money saved in letting the streets go unswept had been saved at an expense many times greater than it would have cost to sweep them."

"I find that even the business men downtown, who are to-day wading around in the accumulated dirt of fifteen days, do not appreciate the gravity of the situation. It is true some of the large merchants are having the streets cleaned at their own expense, but they are doing it because they expect ladies to come to their stores and want to make the city as inviting as possible under the circumstances. But, as a rule, the business men do not stop to think about things outside their business. If they do think of the amount of dirt in front of their stores, they are likely to dismiss it with a malediction on the head of the street-cleaning department and let it go at that."

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BOOK LOVERS TURN TO LITERARY DRAMA.

London Eagerly Watching for Davidson's New Play, "Self's the Man."

A STUDY OF GIRLS' NAMES.

Miss Helena Swan Finds Mary Occurs Most Frequently—Mrs. John Strange Winters Defends Short Story Writers.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Nov. 16.—Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.—The future of the literary drama is certainly promising. A connection I am able to give some authoritative information about Mr. John Davidson's new play, which will not be published before March of next year.

It was commissioned by Mr. Beerholm Tree and was finished in September, 1899.

"The King of the Lumbards" was the original title, but that was changed by the author on the appearance of Mr. Swinburne's "Rosamund, Queen of the Lombards."

It is now called "Self's the Man."

Although the play refers to the Eighteenth Century, it is entirely modern in conception and treatment, and is not otherwise like any preceding work of Mr. Davidson's.

What Christian name for women is most frequently used in England?

A book which Messrs. Somerschein are about to publish will show that it is Mary.

The volume deals with the whole subject of girls' Christian names. It has been compiled by Miss Helena Swan, who traces their etymology, enumerates their celebrated bearers in history and gives the legends associated with them, and the poetry in which they occur, and so on.

Mary, for instance, is of Hebrew origin, being derived from Miriam, which itself comes from Mar, meaning bitter.

Victoria, the name of the Queen's jubilee, the name Victoria was given to many thousands of English children. Beatrice is also popular.

A week or two ago the editor of Crampston's Magazine almost threw up the sponge in the matter of short stories, and while not abandoning them entirely, expressed his conviction that this literary form of fiction had fallen on evil days.

Several very famous writers are known by nothing else than their short stories. Balzac, Guy de Maupassant, Tolstoy—these are names which occur to me at this moment.

The Academy this week challenges Mrs. Winters' statement, saying probably and other momentary reflection would have reminded her that "Eugene Grandet," "Balaam," and "Anna Karenina" are not short stories, and that the failure of the writer to do better than these and others of similar length.

An English translation of the love letters of Balzac is being prepared. In the midst of his love letters, Balzac is a perfect stranger, a Polish lady—Mme. Hanska. He replied and a correspondence began which led to a meeting of the two and their marriage.

Most of this book consists of Balzac's letters to the lady.

GOSSIP ABOUT BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS.

Mr. Thomas Hardy, who lives near Dorchester, England, was lately questioned by an admirer about the faithful description of natural scenery in "Jude," "Tess," and other of his books. Mr. Hardy, relating the circumstances, said that it was his custom to take a large camp umbrella to the scene to be portrayed and there to sketch and write the impressions made.

Refraining to say more than "I have seen it," an account of which appears in the Clarion, to the critic's sent to the novelist on the death of Tess. Many, especially Americans, seemed to think she ought to have had a happier ending. "But," said Hardy, "the only ending possible seemed to me the one I have written."

The Atlantic Monthly has an interesting announcement of its prospects for the coming season. It tells of the work of a Missouri author, whose work is to appear in the magazine. What is the name of the author? The Atlantic Monthly has an interesting announcement of its prospects for the coming season. It tells of the work of a Missouri author, whose work is to appear in the magazine. What is the name of the author?

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BACKACHE.

Women Suffering with Backache are Requested to Read These Letters From Women Who Have Been Cured of It by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Could Not Sleep.
"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—I thought that I would let you know how much good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done me. Before taking it I suffered very much with backache, could not sleep nights. Now, thanks to your medicine, I rest very well every night and am better than I have been for years. I want every woman to know what your Vegetable Compound has done for me. I know it will help others if they will only give it a trial."—Miss GRACE COLTON, Oswego Falls, N. Y.

Backache and Headache.
"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—I had headache and backache, was nervous all the time. I have taken five bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and have had better health since taking it than I have had for ten years. I am stronger than I was and weigh more than I ever did. I think it is the best medicine on earth and have recommended it to others. May God bless you for the good you have done to suffering women."—MRS. MARGARET WILD, Clover Bottom, Ky.

Profuse Menstruation.
"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—My trouble was profuse menstruation, lasting from one to twelve weeks. The flow was so great I thought I could not live over night. I had pains in my right side very severe at times, hot flashes so that I thought I would burn up. I had to stay in bed nearly all the time for two years and six months. I had two doctors but they could do me no good. My neighbors thought that I could not live. While I was in this condition, a lady gave me some of your medicine. I began its use at once and in two days felt that it was doing me good. I soon got out of bed and commenced to do my work, something I had not done for over two years. I continued taking your medicine and now feel as though I was young again. My changes are now regular and people are telling me how well I look. I tell them that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound did it all."—ALMEDA R. DUNLAP, 29 S. Kent St., Winchester, Va.

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have been friends with and protected by birds and beasts, and besides entertaining them to insure to the sympathy and affection of the birds and beasts about them and dependent upon them for care and kindness.

Although making his home in England, Mr. John Buchan is a native of Scotland, having been born there in 1871. He was educated at Glasgow University and at Brasenose College, Oxford, where he had a rather distinguished career, getting a first in the law and a second in the sciences.

Mr. Buchan has written a number of small books, of which the chief are "John Burnet of Barns," "Grey Weather," and "The Last of